

Arab Statement Opening of ADP 29 April 2013

Distinguished Co-Chairs

I have the honor to take the floor on behalf of the Arab Group comprising the 22 member states of the League of Arab States. Let me first start by associating the Arab Group with the statement read out by the distinguished representative of Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

The Arab group congratulates you on the effective and cordial manner in which you have led our work since last April. We look forward to a productive and constructive dialogue and exchange of views under your leadership this week and in the resumed June session.

The Arab Group considers that the international climate change regime is founded on the principles and provisions of the UNFCCC and of the KP. Articles 3 and 4 of the Convention represent in our view the basis for international cooperation in the fight against climate change, namely through the principle of CBDR , equity, and the responsibility for historical emissions, and the absolute priority for developing countries to achieve sustainable development and poverty eradication in line with their national strategies and priorities. These fundamentals are not to be reinterpreted or renegotiated but instead our work should be grounded on them and they should be reemphasized in any 2015 outcome we collectively reach.

The Arab Group stresses that our objective should be the full and sustained implementation of the Convention through the full implementation of the outcomes emanating from the Bali processes and the Durban and Doha decisions. Our work in the ADP shall be informed of the progress in implementation of the commitments made in Durban and Doha relative to the second commitment period of the KP and the implementation and delivery of commitments in the areas of adaptation, finance, technology transfer, and capacity building. Merely creating new institutions is not enough , but should be translated into concrete time-bound deliverables to assist developing countries requirements for adaptation and mitigation. In this regard, we call for our deliberations in the ADP to be constantly informed by the progress reached in the various subsidiary bodies. In fact, in our view, any 2015 outcome should not be mitigation-centered but should incorporate and integrate all these aspects for which much efforts have been exerted since

2005. We call for balanced progress in our work in the elaboration of the content of all these building blocks. Our goal should be to bridge the ambition gaps in all these matters with the same level of seriousness and resolve if we are to deliver by 2015 an outcome that is effective and that all could feel ownership of .

The Arab Group will no doubt assume its fair share of the global efforts to combat climate change. Much is already taking place in individual Arab countries to delink their economic development strategies from the growth of their emissions and to implement new and renewable energy strategies. However, Arab countries will not agree with any attempt to move away or side step the founding principles of international cooperation in the field of climate change, or any attempt by some to renege on their legal obligation to take the lead in global efforts by shifting to developing countries the burden to fill the gap between the level of required emission reductions required by science and their low mitigation commitments. We believe that in order to foster trust and give a push to the ADP negotiations, Annex 1 countries members of the KP are called upon to urgently complete their ratification of the second commitment period, and revise their mitigation ambition upward in 2014. Non- KP Annex 1 countries or Annex 1 countries that chose not to be part of the second commitment period of the KP are called upon to exert comparable emission reduction efforts. There should also be a swift progress in the operationalization of the Green Climate Fund as well as urgently addressing the missing elements pertaining to long term finance in the Doha outcome. Furthermore, we call on all sides to desist from unilateral trade measures in the name of climate change, and to effectively address the socio-economic impact of response measures on developing countries and assist those countries in need to diversify their economies in order to face the repercussions of climate change.

In closing, the Arab Group reiterates its commitment to work with all parties towards the success of our collective journey to 2015 so that its outcome responds to the aspirations of the international community, and to realize a shift in the mindset in these international negotiations away from finger pointing to a principled approach grounded on equity and fairness.

I thank you.